

Message Text

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ORIGIN COA-02

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DRAFTED BY S/FW-COA - STUART BLOW:MAC

APPROVED BY S/FW-COA - STUART BLOW

EA/J - MR. PIEZ

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R 201909Z JUN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, XP, JA

SUBJECT: ALASKA REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY CLOSURE BLUE
CRAB FISHERY

1. GOVERNOR EGAN HAS INFORMED US THAT ALASKA HAS CLOSED FOR MONTH OF JUNE U.S. FISHERY FOR BLUE KING CRAB (PARALITHODES PLATYPUS) IN VICINITY PRIBILOFS. HE ASKS THAT WE SEEK SIMILAR ACTION BY JAPANESE WHO ARE UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE 3 VESSELS OPERATING THIS FISHERY THAT AREA. U.S. CLOSURE WILL BE LIFTED JULY 1 SO ANY JAPANESE CLOSURE WOULD BE OF VERY SHORT DURATION. DESPITE THIS BELIEVE WE SHOULD ACCEDE TO GOVERNOR'S REQUEST.

2. BACKGROUND: PREVIOUSLY THERE HAD BEEN LITTLE U.S. CRAB FISHING IN VICINITY PRIBILOFS. HOWEVER THERE HAS BEEN INTENSIVE U.S. FISHERY THIS SPRING FOR BLUE CRAB THAT AREA. RECENT OBSERVATIONS BY ALASKA DFG HAVE INDICATED INCREASING OCCURRENCE OF SOFT SHELL CRAB, IN SOME CASES AS HIGH AS 30 PERCENT OF LANDINGS. BECAUSE OF POOR QUALITY OF MEAT OBTAINED FROM MOLTING AND SOFT POST-MOLT CRABS AND CONSERVATION PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM EXCESSIVE HANDLING OF SOFT CRABS DURING FISHING

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OPERATIONS, ALASKA DFG CONSIDERED IT NECESSARY TO CLOSE

BERING SEA TO BLUE KING CRAB FISHING EFFECTIVE JUNE 1.
CLOSURE WILL LAST UNTIL JULY 1. SPECIAL PROBLEM IS

CREATED IN PRIBILOF AREA SINCE U.S. FISHERMEN WHO HAVE
BEEN ACTIVELY COMPETING WITH JAPANESE FISHERMEN MUST
STOP FISHING WHILE THE 3 JAPANESE VESSELS CONTINUE.

3. REQUEST EMBASSY DISCUSS MATTER WITH APPROPRIATE GOJ
OFFICIALS AND SEEK COOPERATION IN CLOSURE UNTIL JULY 1,
RECOGNIZING THAT SHORT TIME REMAINING.

FYI GOVERNOR'S LETTER DATED JUNE 12 RECEIVED HERE
JUNE 19. KISSINGER

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